

Living on the Wild Side. It's gonna be wild!

By Stephen Delaney Hale

In one weekend, thousands will be entertained, enlightened, enriched and hopefully engaged to protect and admire America's fantastic wild places.

For nearly a quarter of a century, the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition has treated nature lovers to the very best in art and the great outdoors. The expo is held in beautiful Charleston, SC in venues that are a treat to admirers of classic Old South architecture.

This year's event, set for Feb. 17-19, 2006, will house exhibits in Charleston Place, the Mills House Hotel, Gaillard Auditorium, Marion Square and a half-dozen other fascinating Charleston venues. And every member of the family will find their own wildlife wonder.

Wildlife gifts and collectibles abound for anyone who wants to bring a little of the exhibition home with them.

Art lovers will find 150 renowned wildlife and landscape artists showing and selling original paintings, carvings and sculptures, plus some offering affordable reproductions and photography. Nature lovers will delight in 250 nature-related exhibitors and vendors, including special guest Jack Hanna, one of America's best known naturalists and host of "Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures" television series.

Outdoorsmen – and women – will have a chance to speak with outfitters, guides and retailers. The many conservation exhibits will raise the consciousness of those who visit and will help instill a respect for wild creatures and natural resources.

Dog lovers will be amazed by demonstrations of the Boykin Spaniel Society, the Palmetto Retriever Club and performances by the Purina Dog Chow Incredible Dog Team.

The honor of being the Expo's 2006 featured artist goes to Heiner Hertling of Milford, MI, an extremely versatile artist who works in watercolors, outdoor "plein-air" painting, loose impressionist oils, and both small and life-sized sculptures.

Children will learn important lessons at wildlife shows by the Busch Wildlife

Sanctuary, an organization that cares for sick, injured and orphaned wild animals and promotes wildlife and habitat conservation. In addition, a special children's venue will offer lots of fun and hands-on activities for kids.

"If you are an art connoisseur, outdoor adventurer, or animal lover, you won't want to miss it," said Ashley Slane, marketing director for Southeastern Wildlife Exposition. "The Exposition is bringing back a lot of our favorites for 2006, and for those who love to come back every year, we'll have lots of exciting new things to do and see."

After over 25 years of excitement, the Southeastern Wildlife Expo just improves with age. Don't let them get wild without you!

Find out more...
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